

HIMALAYAN FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, SHIMLA

EARTH DAY 2014

Earth Day is a global forum to express concern about what is happening to our land, rivers, lakes, and air—and this forum conducts it with spectacular exuberance. Awareness programmes, of the annual Earth Day event on April, 22, aims to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and focuses upon highlighting environmentally issues, for building a future where people would live in harmony with its limited natural resources. The celebration programme of the 44th edition of **Earth Day** was organised by **Himalayan Forest Research Institute**, at its upcoming Western Himalayan Temperate Arboretum at Potter Hill, near Shimla. Participants included children from BSN Public School, Chakkar, students and faculty from St. Bedes College, Shimla, MSc students from the Department of Bio-Sciences, HP University, besides local people from nearby the arboretum.

Dr. Vaneet Jishtu, Scientist Incharge for the arboretum interacted with the participants about the role of 'Earth Day' and its importance in the present context, for a better environment ahead. He emphasized upon the fact that, "today, environment has become an issue where we need everybody to speak up, especially the children and youth". There was an interactive session with a voluntary organization by the name '**youth links**', whose founder member Aman and Rajat kept the participants in a joyous mood by their interactive theatricals. Two volunteers of an International NGO, Daniel Scotti from the United States of America and Rafiella Las from the Philippines were specially invited to interact on the occasion. They are involved in fabricating ecologically friendly homes, from waste like plastic bottles, discarded tyres, etc. They shared their experience on ecologically viable housing for the poor, from down south in Tamil Nadu. These volunteers strongly advocated sustainable livelihood development among the youth.

Afterwards, the participants were taken around the arboretum and explained about the importance of native species of the region. Below are given picture plates of the programme;





SNAPSHOTS FROM THE EARTH DAY PROGRAMME AT THE WESTERN HIMALAYAN TEMPERATE ARBORETUM, POTTER'S HILL (SHIMLA)





DANIEL SCOTTI (USA) AND RAFIELLA LAS (PHILIPPINES), AS VOLUNTEERS FROM AN INTERNATIONAL NGO, WORKING ON ECOLOGICAL PROJECTS IN INDIA INTERACTED WITH THE PARTICIPANTS





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